

Lancaster Christ Church minutes of PCC meeting 14th October 2020

Name	Initials	Present	Apologies
Carol Backhouse	CB	X	
Jacqueline Stamper	JS	X	
Paul Thompson	PT	X	
Olwyne Thompson	OT	X	
Julie Buckley	JB	X	
Andrew Neal	AN	X	
Joyce Lynch	JL	X	
Jane Lippitt	JLi	X	
Vic Parsons	VP		X

Agenda Item	Minutes	Actions
1	Opening prayers	CB/All
2	Apologies for absence VP	All
3	AOB – Hilary Thwaytes has now resigned from the PCC, we wish to record a vote of thanks to Hilary for all her work on the PCC.	CB/All
4	Minutes of the meeting held 16 th September 2020 via Zoom required two typing errors (outer to our and misspelt Architect) both in the Building matters section the rest was accepted as an accurate record.	CB/JB
5	<p>Matters arising from the minutes not covered elsewhere:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> COVID19 – We will keep the current safety measures in place and await the next set of changes. It may affect the use of the Hall/Night Shelter and/or services over the festive season. The likely advice is that churches will stay open and continue to use the mixed economy of face to face, recorded services and Zoom meetings. JLi asked whether we should switch from using disposable anti-bac wipes to re-usable cloths for cleaning chairs etc. The cloths could be disinfected and washed. JS mentioned that she was about to put in a bulk order of appropriate cleaning and sanitising supplies as we will need these items much longer term than originally expected. She will check for bio-degradable paper cloths, Anti-bac spray and cloths that can be boiled. JLi will ask AD for advice on this. CB will announce the cleaning routine changes in the appropriate services when the test products are available. Children, Youth and Families Coordinator – Regarding funds for the CYF post - CB is applying for grants and waiting to hear back from 4 final funders, but these are regardless of the roof (for which separate pots of money may be available when we get to it).The delay is not too much of an issue as we could not make use of the CYF Coordinator at present. However, we have not had anyone coming forward willing to volunteer for work with Children’s Church CB is planning Advent activity take-out bags to be distributed mid to late November. Other ideas put forward by PCC members were the possibility if Nativity via Zoom, Posada/Nativity window scene for each day of advent, with a trail map. JLi asked what links CB had been able to make with Christ Church School. CB reported that she had been doing school assemblies on ‘Teams’ and hopes for more lessons after half term. 	<p>CB/JS</p> <p>JL CB</p> <p>CB</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fundraising – JB gave a brief resume of the items discussed at the fundraising meeting and the progress to date. CB has applied for a gaming licence to the City Council which been approved. This now allows us to plan the set-up of the ‘Bonus Ball’ weekly club, a Grand Christmas Raffle and any other such game within the period of the licence. The cost was £40 for this first licence with an annual review cost of £20, JS, JLi and JB agreed to cover the cost of this first licence personally. Another idea is to set up a virtual Autumn Fair on-line, where craft and other products can be shown on-line and sold. This idea will be developed in our next meeting • Use of the Hall – The latest Covid restrictions may reduce the ability of groups using the Hall still further. The Tae Kwondo group is only running one session per week rather than their usual three. JS has had lots of groups requesting Hall bookings, many from previous users of the Gregson which is now closed. JS has had to defer these until further notice. It will also be necessary to check whether the revised Night Shelter hospitality sessions can be run. JS is also procuring a free standing ‘No touch’ gel dispenser for the hall and purchasing appropriate disposable gloves and aprons etc. • Night Shelter – The coordinators have met and intend to open on 2nd November providing hot meal, Hot drinks, fellowship and support for the homeless. It cannot provide overnight accommodation as we cannot provide single room sleeping accommodation. The PCC gives thanks to all the individuals and other organisations that have generously donated mainly food items but some money as well. AN reported that the current Night Shelter account has enough money to survive until just after Christmas but would struggle unless there is specific fundraising in the future. AN has written to the Francis C Scott organisation but has not had a response so far. CB asked for the approximate costs of running a normal night shelter season. AN reported that this is circa £20K, half of which normally is covered by Francis C Scott. The main costs, of running the shelter is the coordinators pay. JS reported that as we are in year 3 of a 3 year agreement we should expect that the F C Scott money will still be provided. JLy asked for clarity around the hours and contractual arrangement for coordinator and the deputies and whether the Government job support scheme could be used. These posts would not be eligible for the job support scheme. • As it was expected that we would be moved into Tier 3, the COVID regulations for the night shelter means that we are NOT limited to the Rule of 6, but all other safety precautions need to be in place. CB is to meet the coordinators 19th October regarding the changed ways of working. They will also ensure that all other church organisations who would refer people to Christ Church Night Shelter are aware that we cannot accommodate sleep overs. • APCM is on 25th October face to face and a concurrent ZOOM session, there will be a shorter family service and it is hoped a short APCM to ensure that the time spent face to face is minimised. Wardens are required as a physical presence. • Ben’s bench previously approved for installation in the churchyard will be in place later this month. 	<p>CB</p> <p>CB/JS/JLi/JB</p> <p>CB/JS</p> <p>CB</p> <p>CB</p> <p>All</p> <p>PT</p>
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6	<p>Building Matters</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ceiling and Roof repairs – PT has met with the surveyor from Ecclesiastical Insurers who wanted to view the roof and measure up for the internal scaffolding. The scaffolding will take a full day to install. • The architect also visited at the same time; his view is that the current loose tiles etc is the least of our problems. He is concerned that the paint that has been used on the ceiling was non-breathable may have led to the plaster and lathe around the church to allow damp in. • CB reported the Vestry walls seemed to have salt on the surface of the walls. The windows around the sink, the stone surround is quite damp, and plaster is falling off the walls. CB had also mentioned this to the architect and is awaiting feedback. There are major concerns around the contents of the vestry, the vestments and metal work, there is also a large bubble of plaster near the altar. Advice and recommendations are awaited. • AN asked how many of our current building issues had been highlighted in the Quinquennial review. PT said they had identified some of the issues and work had been done on those, but further slates have come loose. The ceiling issues have come loose since the quinquennial review. The Vestry is not included in quinquennial review. We need a steer from the architect so that we carry out work in the right order so that we do not waste money. The architect states that as church is 150 years old and some of the earlier work might have led to even worse deterioration and that the last Quinquennial report was recommended that different paint was needed on the ceiling. We are still hopeful the ceiling will be repaired, and the architect will review the ceiling whilst the scaffolding is up. CB asked should the next QI report be brought forward then we would have a better overview of the whole of the work needed then we can plan accordingly. • PT then reported on the Hall. He had contacted Mick Wilson who recommended Norwest Roofing. We are now going to ask how much it would be to repair the whole roof. Many contractors cannot handle this type of work as not insured to use blow torches! It would also be useful to understand what the life expectancy of the existing roof would be. CB also mentioned that an application for the Wilson Trust to the value of £3k might be available. Applications need to be in before the end of October. • The boilers in the Church and the Hall both need servicing and are not under contract. The last records available suggest the latest service was back in 2016. Wheildon’s hold all the Christ Church records so it is unlikely there are any other service records for later periods. PT has received a quote for one of the church boilers for £118 + Vat plus £65 + VAT. He has now asked for another quote for the other church boiler. Also related is the control panel will not allow setting on automatic. Overall costs will be circa £350. The PCC agreed that the servicing must be done for a Gas safety certificate to be issued, therefore the expenditure is approved. • Trees PT has written to Michael Curwen, they did the work on trees previously for us. PT needs to know whether the costs can be met. CB 	<p>PT</p> <p>CB</p> <p>AN</p> <p>PT</p>
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	has told the neighbour the work will be done when we can afford it as the tree is not deemed dangerous, but with all other demands on our money, it is not on our must do list. Again, there may be other grants that we could apply to if needed, we need to be safe and ensure that we are covered by insurance. AN mentioned that grants would be useful to do some preventative work.	
7	<p>Finance – AN reported that planned giving had started to improve. However, income from Weddings and Funeral fees was down. The overall position indicates that we should be able to pay £5k of the Parish share in the final quarter dependent on what else comes up in the meantime. He also thought it was worth reflecting on what else we could do with the pot of money set aside for the Children, Youth and Families coordinator. How much of this should come from the Nile St fund?</p> <p>CB mentioned that no-one had come forward to volunteer working with families and children. She posed a series of questions: It is necessary to invest in people, having the NST money is invaluable, so how do we invest this for the future and how could we double our income. How do we become more resilient? We need to create something that has impact and grows in its own right!</p> <p>JS commented that it may start with a slow burn and take a time to establish through belonging, to commitment to contribution. If the Diocese get the SDF (? Strategic development funding) for resourcing youth ministry. Blackburn and Blackpool may get resources in 2021 that Christ Church could link into. AN would like to see a 5 year vision/plan for finance. Away day sessions to develop these have been delayed due to COVID, we should turn towards this once out of the current crisis.</p>	<p>AN</p> <p>CB</p> <p>JS</p> <p>AN</p>
8	Vision 2026- JS informed the PCC of the Lancaster & Morecambe Deanery presentation led by the Bishop of Lancaster on the revised implementation plan for Vision 2026 – The #Homegrown conference commenced on Tuesday evening 13 th October until late on 14 th October on-line. There will be a Physical conference next year. We need to work out what are the priorities for Christ Church and what would be most manageable. The 4 th strand of the Vision is ‘Inspiring Children and young people’. We need to start having these conversations soon.	JS
9	Prayers and worship are needed to ensure the PCC keeps an eye on how we serve the community	CB
10	Mission and Outreach – Evening prayer/worship is to continue in its current variety and consider whatever other types of prayer people would like to explore. Big events are All Saints and All Souls at the beginning of November. A Remembrance event will be held on 11 th November in Miss Whalley’s field. Christmas plans are to hold a Toy service on 13 th December and Christingle on 20 th December. There will be an Advent window project, publicity for this to be developed.	CB
11	The handling of collections at funerals was discussed briefly. We get little income from funeral donations.	CB
12	Safeguarding – First Aid training has been booked for Saturday 14 th November. 9:30 – 4:30. 5 enquiries from other organisation to join on the day, arrangements to pay were discussed [?]. The number of first aiders required for Christ Church was discussed, but as there is no set number this will be advertised on pew sheets. Three people have already agreed to be trained.	JLi

13	<p>ECO report - Last Eco group zoom meeting took place on 29th September. We discussed the BBC programme 'War on Plastic' which highlighted the almost impossibility of recycling sandwich packaging, and the plastic that remains from tea bags. There are some tea companies that have now removed plastic from their products e.g.PG tips, Clipper, Twinings, Coop and Pukka. We also discussed deforestation resulting from production of soya and the huge amount that was exported to the UK for use in chicken and pig feed. Only 6% goes into vegetarian food. The industries involved are committed to the use of sustainably grown soy but are dependent on financially viable alternatives becoming available. Soy is being grown in the UK and EUROPE. Another TV programme discussed was 'the big bee rescue' which highlighted opportunities for the growth of wildflowers for insects, including the financial incentives for farmers in the Agricultural Bill passing through Parliament at the moment. The Church Times had reported that there was a carbon footprint toolkit for church use which then led to discussion about our church heating system and research of alternatives. Given the condition of the roof it was thought that that was the priority at the moment. It was also reported that the Diocese draft implementation plan for Vision 2026 includes the aspiration to achieve Eco diocese status. It was hoped that the work of the Christ church Eco group could contribute to that aspiration. The weekly actions are now being added to the Eco notice board in church hall. The actions for October follow the Harvest theme as follows. 4th October: Help bring the harvest home by supporting our farmers and the NFU's efforts to uphold our high standards in food production, environmental protection and animal welfare, in future trade deals. 11th October: Food produced at an industrial scale maybe low cost but is often low grade. Be prepared to pay a little more to make sure the 'harvest' is a healthy one and doesn't cost the earth. 18th October: Many of big food producers focus on profit not principle. Check out your favourite brands to make sure that they are ethically produced. 25th October: Consider avoiding specialist foods such as avocados which are intensively farmed, causing environmental damage and depriving local populations of other food sources. Last Thursday Margaret and I attended a virtual 'Treading Lightly Network' meeting. Seven churches were represented and two City Councillors and John Rodwell, the newly appointed Diocesan Environmental Officer, made important contributions. One of the things that came out of the meeting was the need to find better ways of communicating the climate change message. Councillor Kevin Frea, the deputy leader of the City Council emphasised the importance of contacting your councillors and MPs with concerns about climate change. We were reminded that the City Council's local plan is now under partial review in order to make sure it reflects the Council's Climate Emergency Strategy. Everyone should contribute to this review and the link can be found on the City Council's website. The actions for November and December will be on Advent and Christmas theme. The next Eco Group meeting will take place on 27th October.</p>	Jly
14	Any Other Business – CB thanked all the PCC for the extra 6 months that had been served through unprecedented times due to COVID delaying the next APCM	All
15	Public version of the minutes – Nothing to amend.	All
16	Dates of next meetings, Standing Committee Monday 2 nd November 1pm, PCC Wednesday 18 th November 7:30pm	
17	Closing Prayer – Compline	

